

House Resolution Number

Whereas, during the interim between the First and Second Regular Sessions of the Ninety-first General Assembly, the House Interim Committee on Consumer Protection and Credit Cards on College Campuses met, took testimony, deliberated, and concluded its investigation of the recent increase in credit card debt among college students in Missouri; and

Whereas, the House Interim Committee on Consumer Protection and Credit Cards on College Campuses submitted a report to the Speaker of the House of Representatives which included the recommendations of the committee; and

Whereas, technology and consumerism during the last 15 years have combined to make the ownership of a credit card by college students commonplace, while many students may not be ready for the financial responsibility associated with the ownership of a credit card; and

Whereas, credit card companies aggressively pursue the college student market through displays, free gifts, and the inclusion of application forms in shopping bags, without any obligation to inform the vulnerable applicant of the negative aspects of credit cards; and

Whereas, almost 4 out of every 5 students entering college having never received any kind of school instruction on personal finance and school policies regarding credit card solicitation vary among Missouri's 32 public colleges and universities; and

Whereas, while most of the major credit card companies state that they have systems in place to assist cardholders who have trouble with excess debt, there is very little oversight of the practices of credit card companies on college campuses:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-first General Assembly, urge the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to incorporate personal finance and consumer education into the curriculum for public school grades kindergarten through twelfth, and that the MAP test be adjusted accordingly to test for retention and progress;

Be it further resolved that we urge the Coordinating Board of Higher Education to require each publicly funded institution of higher learning to establish a written

policy on credit card solicitation of college students and address the credit card debt problem experienced by some college students by:

- (1) Limiting or eliminating the availability of space to market credit cards on campus;
- (2) Limiting or eliminating the number of solicitors allowed on campus;
- (3) Prohibiting specific marketing practices on campus, such as tabling, free gifts, and applications placed in shopping bags;
- (4) Issuing pamphlets on credit card debt in bookstore shopping bags;
- (5) Determining how and whether alumni associations are allowed to solicit undergraduate students on campus and at athletic events; and
- (6) Determining what information credit card companies must provide to students when soliciting on campus, such as the long-term effect of compounded interest and hidden fees, the fact that the credit card company is not affiliated with the school, and the possible effects of developing a poor credit history; and

Be it further resolved that we urge the Coordinating Board of Higher Education to establish policies to:

- (1) Restrict access to student information by third parties for nonacademic purposes;
- (2) Give students the ability to "opt out" of student listings accessed by credit card companies without an all or nothing approach;
- (3) Have available education on personal finance, credit cards, and debt management as part of the college's orientation or as a regular college course, and include information in student handbooks; and
- (4) The advertisement of the availability of credit counseling for students; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

Offered by _____
Representative Amber Boykins

District No. 60

I, Jim Kreider, Speaker of the House of
Representatives, Ninety-first General Assembly,
Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is
a true and correct copy of House Resolution
No. _____, adopted _____, 2002.

Jim Kreider, Speaker

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